

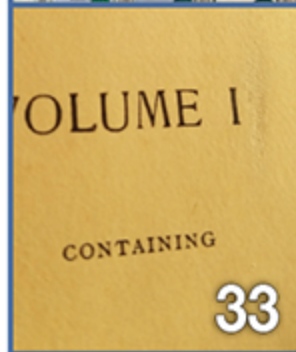
THE Asylum

VOL. 39 NO. 3



AUTUMN 2021

Quarterly Journal of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society • COINBOOKS.ORG



Available at numislit.com

The Identification and Classification of Connecticut Coppers (1785–1788)

By Randall P. Clark

*A new publication from the
Colonial Coin Collectors Club*

The long-awaited modern standard reference work on this complex and fascinating series of state copper coins. Examines in detail the over 350 identified die varieties of Connecticut coppers and provides a thorough and detailed history of their production. A landmark work, encyclopedic in its scope, and well-illustrated with enlarged images for aid in attribution.

Ancient Coins in Early American Auctions, 1869–1939

By David F. Fanning

A bibliography and analysis of American auction catalogues issued before the Second World War that feature photographically printed illustrations of ancient coins. Includes biographical material concerning the dealers whose catalogues are discussed, as well as a statistical analysis of the catalogues and supplementary information relevant to provenance research.

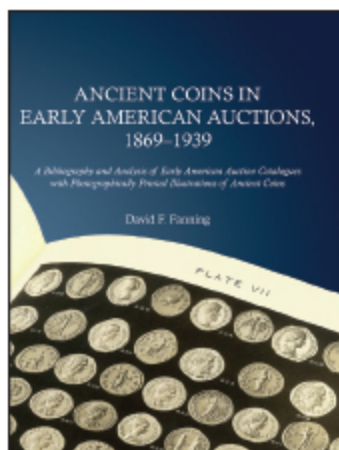
"brings to light an area of American numismatic history that has long been forgotten" —Q. David Bowers

Collectors of ancient coins will find this well-illustrated volume essential for provenance research, and numismatists in general will enjoy a guided tour through the world of 19th-century American coin dealers. —Joel J. Orosz

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Numismatic Bibliomania Society

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Submissions: *The Asylum* (ISSN 1552-1931) is published in four issues per year. Submissions should be sent to the editor at nbsasylum@gmail.com. Authors, please put your name(s) and contact information on all submitted material. All accepted manuscripts become the property of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. For more information, please contact the editor.

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Spring Issue (No. 1) February 1
Summer Issue (No. 2) May 1

Autumn Issue (No. 3) August 23 (After ANA)
Winter Issue (No. 4) November 1

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Tom Harrison
NBS President

Message from the President

Although we missed many of our friends at this year's NBS events at the ANA World's Fair of Money, those who were in attendance demonstrated plenty of enthusiasm for numismatic literature. The NBS hosted our club table from Tuesday to Friday. Thank you to everyone who stopped by to share their passion for numismatic literature, view items for Friday's charitable auction and to receive an NBS commemorative coffee mug for

a \$25 donation.

The Symposium featured Rusty Goe, an authority on the Carson City Mint and its coinage. His presentation included a survey of literature related to the Carson City Mint, fascinating stories of Mint-related personalities and a number of the coins produced on Carson Street. Following his previous two award-winning books detailing the Carson City Mint, his research has culminated with his recent three-volume definitive work entitled *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector*, which received the Numismatic Literary Guild Book of the Year Award. On behalf of the NBS membership, thank you, Rusty!

The 42nd annual General Meeting was highlighted by *The Asylum* author awards, our all-important charity auction and a presentation by NBS Vice President Len Augsburg, discussing the digitalization of *Coin World* and *Numismatic News*. It was announced that *The E-Sylum* received first place in the electronic category of the ANA's Barbara J. Gregory Outstanding Club Publication Competition. Also, David and Maria Fanning of Kolbe & Fanning Numismatic Booksellers received first place in the Numismatic Literary Guild Best Auction Catalog category for their *Richard Margolis International Numismatic Library Sale*. Congratulations to David, Maria, and to Wayne and everyone who contributed to the continued success of *The E-Sylum* for these well-deserved awards.

Again this year, our most generous membership stepped up in a big way to provide programing opportunities and to ensure the financial health of the NBS. Thanks to our openhanded donors and bidders, to David and Maria Fanning for cataloging the sale and to David for serving as our auctioneer, the NBS raised \$9150! Thanks to the efforts of many devoted numismatists, the entire convention was a resounding success.

Please be sure to read Joel Orosz's detailed reports about the Symposium and General Meeting. May your library provide investigation, discovery and most of all, enjoyment.



Editor's Note:

Many people pictured in this issue removed their masks only to be photographed or when speaking in front of a group.



Congratulations to This Year's Award Winners!

*And many thanks to all NBS members who contributed
to our award-winning publications!*

The Asylum Award Winners



Len Augsburg accepts the Joel J. Orosz Award
at the 2021 NBS General Meeting from NBS President Tom Harrison

Lawrence J. Lee
“John, the Deaf Guy”
(v.38 n.2)

Jack Collins Award
Best Article by a
First-Time Author in 2020

**Leonard Augsburg
and Joel J. Orosz**

“The Rare First Printing of the
Fantastic 1804 Dollar” (v.38 n.4)

Joel J. Orosz Award
Best Article of 2020

The E-Sylum

First Place

**Outstanding Electronic
Numismatic Publication**

American Numismatic
Association



Numismatic Bibliomania Society Symposium

“Studying the Carson City Mint and Its Coins” by Rusty Goe

Thursday, August 12, 2021, Rosemont, Illinois

Report by Joel J. Orosz

The 2021 Numismatic Bibliomania Society Symposium speaker was Rusty Goe, who presented an illustrated lecture entitled “Studying the Carson City Mint and Its Coins.” Goe’s three-volume work on this subject, *The Confident Carson City Coin Collector*, had just been named the Numismatic Literary Guild’s Book of the Year, and Goe’s presentation underscored why that honor was well-deserved. He nonetheless asserted that no one holds a monopoly on the truth on any given subject, and that his books do not resolve all of the unknowns around the Carson City Mint and its coinage.

Goe began by detailing the many challenges he had to overcome, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of several archival repositories, in order to publish his books by the desired date of 2020, the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Carson City Mint. Among the big questions he set out to answer were:

- When was the first coin struck at the Carson City Mint?
- Why are there discrepancies in the Mintage figures for 1871 and 1872?
- Why did CC Mint Superintendent Henry F. Wright leave office in 1873?
- Did the CC Mint strike proof Morgan dollars in 1893 to mark the cessation of coining at the CC Mint?
- From whom did Louis Eliasberg acquire his 1873 CC without arrows quarter?
- How many 1876 CC twenty cent pieces were in the hoard discovered by Tom Warfield in 1950, and how many of these coins can be identified today?



Rusty Goe after his talk at the 2021 NBS Symposium.

Goe presented a brief list of significant reference sources for CC coins:

1893: Augustus Heaton's monograph *Mint Marks* was the first reference to call attention to collecting CC mint marked coins.

1945: Harold M. Budd, Sr. wrote a landmark essay on CC coinage, published in *The Numismatist* for August of 1945.

1972: Howard Hickson's *Mint Mark "CC"*, published by the Nevada State Museum, renewed collector enthusiasm for the series.

1994: Doug Winter and Dr. Larry Cutler co-authored a reference on CC gold coins.

2004: Rusty Goe's *The Mint on Carson Street* provided an introduction to the history of the CC Mint.

Various years: Several Nevada histories touch upon the CC Mint, its key personnel, and its coinage.

Ironically, however, more sources can be found dealing with the great scandal of 1895—in which \$75,000 in gold bullion was embezzled—than on all of the years of coinage conducted at the Mint. There are simply far too few reference sources regarding the CC Mint and the coins it produced, and Goe hopes that his contributions will serve as building blocks for further studies that will enlighten the field. For now, however, there are five prime resources that collectors of CC coinage must use:

- A set of Bernie Rome's *Prices Realized* for U.S. coins
- A representative set of major auction firms' catalogs from the 1980s to present
- The two-volume set of John W. Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*
- PCGS Auction Prices Realized
- Heritage Auctions online auction archives

The subject then shifted to Goe's delight in provenance research, in which he traced the travels through time of a couple of notable CC Mint emissions. He also told several stories about CC Mint personnel's descendants who achieved fame for diverse reasons, although many focused on music, such as being an avant-garde composer, a noted jazz musician, and marrying Irving Berlin. Other stories connected the CC Mint to interesting events, such as the 1873 CC without arrows quarter that completed Louis Eliasberg's comprehensive collection of US Mint dates and mint marks, and the connection of Carson City to John Wayne's final movie, "The Shootist."

Rusty Goe's most interesting and informative Symposium presentation has been recorded by the NBS, and is available for viewing at the Internet Archive, at <https://archive.org/details/nbssymposium2021>



Numismatic Bibliomania Society General Meeting

Friday, August 13, 2021, Rosemont, Illinois

Report by Joel J. Orosz



NBS President Tom Harrison at the 2021 NBS General Meeting

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society was called to order by President Tom Harrison at 11:30 AM CDT in Room 7 of the Donald Stephens Convention Center. The first order of business was the NBS Annual Benefit Auction. More than 50 lots were donated this year by a number of NBS members; as per tradition, the most prolific donor was Past President Dan Hamelberg. Also, in keeping with tradition, David Fanning both prepared the catalog and called the auction, and Dan also did double duty by displaying the lots during bidding, and delivering them to winners in attendance. A goodly number of members bid in a spirited fashion, and after the final hammer had fallen, the auc-

tion realized \$9,150, up from \$7,035 last year, and the second highest take in the past ten years. Warm thanks are due to the generous donors and the plucky bidders who this year, like so many years before it, transmogrified red ink into black for the NBS.

The auction block was then transformed into President Harrison's podium for the duration of the meeting. Treasurer Chuck Heck, who continues to provide yeoman's service to the NBS, was unable to be personally present, so his Financial Report was read by President Harrison. And a happy task that proved to be, for the numbers were positive across the board. Membership holds steady at 325 (it has hovered within a range of 300-350 for the past decade). Included in that figure are 67 Life Members and 13 complimentary members. For calendar year 2020, total income was \$21,727, broken down into \$8,910 from dues; \$4,631 from advertising in *The Asylum* and *The E-Sylum*; \$7,035 from the Annual Benefit Auction; and \$1,068 from outright donations. It is worth noting that outright donations were unusual before Treasurer Heck secured 501(c)(3) status for the NBS from the Internal Revenue Service, which made charitable gifts to the NBS fully deductible from federal income taxes. Now, such gifts are growing, and will become an ever-more important means of supporting the NBS in future years. On the expense side, \$16,092 went toward *The Asylum*; \$1,000 for the NBS Podcasts; and just under \$1,000 for incidental expenses, making a total



David and Maria Fanning in the Kolbe & Fanning booth

of \$18,018. For 2020, therefore, the NBS was \$3,709 in the black.

President Harrison then announced the 2020 award winners. The Jack Collins Award, for the Best Article by a First-Time Author in *The Asylum*, went to Lawrence Lee, for his “John, the Deaf Guy” in the Summer 2020 issue. The Joel J. Orosz Award, for the Best Article in *The Asylum*, went to Vice-President Len Augsburg and Joel J. Orosz, for their jointly written “The Rare First Printing of the 1804 Dollar: An Ex-

planatory and Comprehensive Census of the Surviving Copies,” in the Winter 2020 issue. Happily, these articles were among a bumper crop produced by both new and veteran writers for *The Asylum* in 2020. Editor Maria Fanning continues to do a spectacular job of recruiting authors to make submissions, and then of molding these contributions into a superb—and indeed, award-winning—quarterly journal. Nor should we neglect to give thanks to Past President Wayne Homren, the award-winning publisher and editor *The E-Sylum*, which appears in our e-mail inboxes without fail every Sunday evening for winning First Place in the ANA’s Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication. Hats off to David and Maria Fanning for being recognized by the Numismatic Literary Guild, winning the “Best Catalog” award for their *Richard Margolis International Numismatic Library* sale. Finally, Joel J. Orosz was named the 2021 recipient of the Burnett Anderson Memorial Award for numismatic writing, a lifetime achievement recognition conferred jointly by the American Numismatic Society, American Numismatic Association, and the Numismatic Literary Guild.

The 2021 Annual Meeting speaker was Vice President Len Augsburg, reporting on the Newman Numismatic Portal’s digitization of the entire runs of both *Numismatic News* and *Coin World*. Len began with a short historical review of these two newspapers-of-record in the numismatic field. *Numismatic News* was founded in 1952 by Chet Krause, of Iola, Wisconsin, initially as a monthly consisting exclusively of classified ads. Its frequency of publication increased to twice monthly in 1960 and later to weekly; it also evolved into a full-fledged newspaper, with news, editorials and feature stories. Krause transferred ownership to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan in 2002, which in turn sold the paper to Active Interest Media in 2018. *Coin World* was established in 1960 by J. Oliver Amos, of Sidney, Ohio. In its first year, it went from zero to sixty—from no subscribers to 60,000—in mere months of operation. The paper continues publication today under the leadership of J. Oliver Amos’s grandson. In their combined 130 years of publishing, these two newspapers have created a massive archive of information and data on virtually every aspect of numismatics.

Scanning thousands of back issues was no small feat. NNP, with its student workforce sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic, has contracted with a firm in Fort Wayne, Indiana to do scanning. NNP has relied upon the reference set of *Numismatic*



Len Augsburger gave an update on the Newman Numismatic Portal at the NBS General Meeting



Wayne Homren, editor of the *E-Sylum*, holding his First Place Award from the ANA for Outstanding Electronic Numismatic Publication Award

News residing at the Iola Historical Society, as the primary source for that paper. Despite having to disbind the set for scanning, the Fort Wayne facility has just finished imaging 2500 issues. The *Coin World* reference set was collected by Eric P. Newman and donated back to *Coin World* in 2005. Len noted that many of these issues were addressed to "L.A. Pereau," which was a Newman family inside joke. Eric's cousin-in-law, Bernard Edison, was nicknamed "Bunny"; "lapereau" in French literally means "little rabbit." NNP teamed with the American Numismatic Society to scan the Newman set, supplemented by the set formed by NBS member David Sundman, in facilities in New Jersey and in Fort Wayne. This monumental task was completed in 2017. These issues are under copyright protection, which means that NNP can supply limited content to researchers only under the provisions of the "Fair Use" doctrine. In practice, this means that only small portions (such as individual articles) can be shared. Requests for whole issues, or even multiple articles, exceed the boundaries of fair use.

Len closed his presentation with an overview of cartoons and cartoonists published in these newspapers. Among the most notable were Bill King, who was also a contributor to the *Washington Post*, and Ed Rochette, a former Executive Director of the American Numismatic Association, whose cartoon series was humorously christened "The Numisma-Pest." Images of these cartoons (and indeed, the entire Annual Meeting), were recorded, and can be found on the Internet Archive at <https://archive.org/details/nbsgeneral2021>

So concluded another year in the life of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. The series will continue next year with a report on the 2022 42nd Annual NBS Meeting, which will also be held at Rosemont.



NBS Charity Auction Results

By Tom Harrison

The NBS charity auction, held Friday, August 13th at the NBS general meeting in conjunction with the ANA World's Fair of Money, again demonstrated the generosity of the NBS membership. This year there were 53 lots graciously contributed by nine donors. Of the 31 registered bidders, ten were absentee. The sale consisted of a wide



David Fanning calls the NBS charity auction with the help of Dan Hamelberg

variety of items including a Walter Breen half cent advertising broadside, Jim Neiswinter's reconstruction of the Levick plate, and a photograph of the attendees at the 2004 Invasion of Pittsburgh.

Lot 11, a plated, priced and bound copy of S.H. Chapman's Gregory Sale, received the top bid of \$1100. Other highlights included lot 31, a nearly complete set of the very rare *Mason's Coin Collectors' Herald* which brought \$750, lot 26, John Haseltine's plated and priced Chubbuck sale that hammered for \$475 and lot 40, Henry Phillips's very rare publication *The Coinage of the United States of America* realized \$600. Most of the lots received spirited bidding and every lot went to a new home.

On behalf of the NBS, I would like to share a sincere word of gratitude to our generous donors, enthusiastic bidders, David and Maria Fanning for cataloging the sale and to David for adeptly serving as our auctioneer. The contributions of these many friends of the NBS raised an amazing \$9,150! The charity auction always provides a fascinating array of numismatic literature and is a wonderful way to support our fine organization. We hope you will consider participating in this fun, entertaining and essential event next year.

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NBS Treasurer's Report

for the Year Ended December 31, 2020

By NBS Treasurer, Chuck Heck

The fiscal year ending December 31, 2020 ended with a very pleasant surprise—a surplus of approximately \$3,700 against an expected loss of \$570. There are two factors for the surplus: 1. the generosity of the donors, and 2. the annual Charitable Book Auction. Were it not for the time and talent of those who run the auction and the book and cash contributions from donors, the NBS would eventually be facing the unpleasant reality of raising dues or cutting services. Our cash position is strong at \$37,000 as compared to \$30,750 in 2019. With no current liabilities, the NBS is looking forward to another good year.

Membership is stagnant at approximately 330 members. The Board is continually looking for ways to improve that situation. One member has come forward with a “Strive-For-Five” idea where each member strives to recruit five new members this next year. The cost of a digital subscription membership is only \$25. What a difference that could make!

If any member would like a copy of the Financial Statements for 2019 or 2020, they are available for the asking. Simply contact me at [NBStreasurer2019@gmail.com](mailto:NBS treasurer2019@gmail.com).

My very best to all!



Support Your NBS

Established in 1979, the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's purpose is to stimulate interest in collecting numismatic literature and cultivate cooperation among collectors and researchers. The NBS has a rich history of generous members who have supported its mission over the years.

The NBS would be truly grateful for your donation to help sustain our role in the numismatic community. As a 501(c)3 organization, all donations to the NBS are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

***Become a Sustaining Member or
make a one-time donation today.***

Contact NBS Treasurer Chuck Heck at treasurer@coinbooks.org.





Thank you, Lianna Spurrier (shown here with her dad, David), for live-streaming NBS events at the convention and making the recordings available to those who could not attend in person!

NBS Symposium (Rusty Goe, speaker): archive.org/details/nbssymposium2021

NBS general meeting: archive.org/details/nbsgeneral2021

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Founded in 1991, WIN is the premiere organization for women in the field of numismatics.

As a nationally incorporated nonprofit, our chartered goals are to encourage fellowship and learning through networking and social events, as well as offering educational seminars, scholarship programs, and our semi-annual literary publication, *Winning Ways*.

President Charmy Harker is leading the board in a revitalization of WIN, focusing on expanding membership and providing social-media platforms for members to connect, discuss, and promote their brands.

Collector or dealer, novice or expert, we invite you to join us in the largest and most respected organization for Women In Numismatics.

At the NBS Booth



Kellen Hoard and Tom Harrison toast to the NBS with 2020 and 2021 NBS commemorative mugs (and tie!)



Editor's Note:

Many people pictured in this issue removed their masks to be photographed.

Clockwise from top:
Len Augsburger and
his wife Deb Kurtz,
Noah, Wayne Homren
and Pete Smith



Len Augsburger with
Neil Musante

Photo by Wayne Homren

Brad Karoleff with his newly-purchased book of embossed coin illustrations
Photo by Wayne Homren



John Hoskins on his way to a talk



Dan Hamelberg with Charlie Davis



The ultimate exonomia! Bob Evans rings the bell excavated from the S.S. Central America.

Charlie Davis gets a shoe-shine while being serenaded by Chicago Motion.



John Kraljevich and his mighty hammer
Photo by Wayne Homren

Cole Hendrickson with his mom Tamara (and photo-bombed by Marc Ricard)



Shanna Schmidt and her son Jakob



Abe Lincoln and Ben Franklin enjoy the numismatic books at the Kolbe & Fanning booth with Maria and Sam Fanning



Pete Smith, David Lange and Barbara Gregory at the ANA Banquet
Photo by Dennis Tucker



The Rittenhouse Society breakfast
Photo by Wayne Homren



Ken Bresset, Philip Bresset and Tom Uram with Abe Lincoln and Ben Franklin
Photo by Wayne Homren



Marc Ricard and Paul Hybert at the Exhibit Hall
Photo by Wayne Homren



Kellen Hoard in the most meta shirt
of the convention

Happenings at Table 611 at the 2021 ANA World's Fair of Money

By W. David Perkins, NLG

As a collector and professional numismatist, I've always tried to have a few special items to share at the annual ANA World's Fair of Money. This might be a coin or two, a collection, or a special display.

This year I had two special items to share at my Table 611. I allocated two cases out of seven for these two items.

Prior to the ANA convention I was planning to display a client's (and friend's) very nice date and major type set of early U.S. Silver Dollars from 1795 to 1803, mostly in XF-AU grades. Most of these coins have great eye appeal and are choice for the grade. The collector stayed home to be safe and the plans changed prior to the show.

The collector suggested another collector's collection, this one a complete date set of Draped Bust Dimes (1796 to 1807) and Capped Bust Dimes (1809 to 1837). Again, this was a high quality and carefully put together collection. I knew this collector and the collection and we quickly agreed that we would display this set in one of my cases at the ANA under the heading "The Long Island Collection."

The other event was the sale of an exceptional and complete Reference Collection of Capped Bust Half Dimes 1829 to 1837 formed by collector Richard Meaney over



The Long Island Collection of Draped Bust and Capped Bust Dimes by date 1796 to 1837 was on display at the World's Fair of Money and the table of W. David Perkins Numismatics. Many wished these coins were for sale!



Selections from the KDM (Richard Meaney) Reference Collection of Capped Bust Half Dimes by type, die marriage, and remarriage were offered at Fixed Prices before and at the 2021 ANA Convention. In addition, select rarities were offered in a Sealed Bid Auction Sale closing Sunday night after the ANA Convention was over.



What may be a record price for a circulated business strike Capped Bust Half Dime die marriage may have been set in this Sealed Bid Sale, with an 1835 LM-12 CB H10C graded “only” PCGS VF35 realizing \$18,879.30 in the sale! It likely is the highest grade example of this R-7 die marriage, with maybe 7 examples known.

approximately 20 years. I had purchased this collection *en bloc* from Richard earlier in 2021 and decided to hold the sale in two parts around the ANA Convention in August 2021 and the FUN Show in Orlando in January 2022. Highlights of this specialized half dime set include:

- 123 coins required for set, 100% completion by type, die marriage, and remarriage
- 100% of coins are in straight-graded PCGS holders (no PCGS Details graded coins)
- 95/123 coins are CAC
- 4 coins are gold CAC
- 48 coins are top pop or tied for top pop for the variety at PCGS
- 62 coins are top or second in JRCS 2019 condition census
- 5 coins are plate coins from Logan-McCloskey *Federal Half Dimes* book
- Notable provenances include Pittman, Newman, Childs, Reiver, Logan, McCloskey, Crain

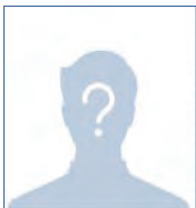
The displays were well received and the table was very busy, with many collectors having “to wait their turn,” but willingly doing so. Sales were brisk too, with dozens of half dimes and dimes sold during the show, carrying on into the weeks after. Having Richard Meaney working at my table during ANA helped for sure!

In addition, I was a little sad to see the coins boxed up when the Long Island Collection owner came to pick up his dimes.



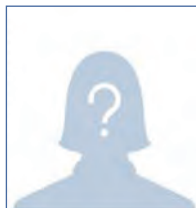
Calling all Bibliomaniacs

We want to get to know you better!



Reach out to your fellow bibliomaniacs by creatively answering a few of the questions below. Email your answers with a portrait photo to *The Asylum* Editor Maria Fanning at asylum@coinbooks.org.

Please keep your submission to a 350 word maximum—including questions.



What is your name (and nicknames)?

Where do you live (i.e. town, state, country, in a palace, on a farm, by a lake, with three cats)?

Where are you most likely to be found (i.e. in your library, a bookshop, hiking in a park)?

What is your area of special numismatic interest?

What is your favorite numismatic reference (i.e. book, periodical, catalogue, website)?

What is an area outside of your specialty that you would like to know more about?

Are you working on any special projects right now (please summarize briefly)?

If you could meet someone from numismatic history, who would it be?

If you could visit anywhere at any time, where and when would it be?

What book, coin or event sparked your interest in building a numismatic library?

Is your library mainly for research or do you primarily consider your literature as a collectible itself?

If there is one thing you would like other numismatic bibliomaniacs to know about you, what would it be?

NBS Bibliotalk

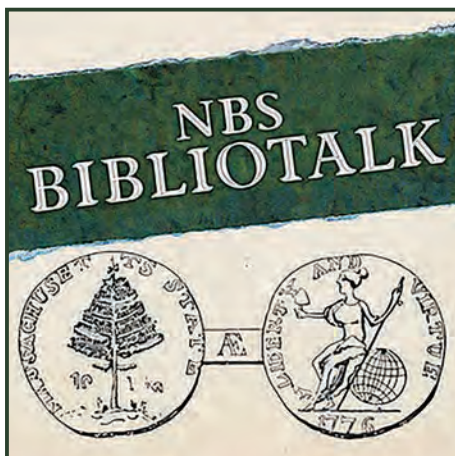
Podcast with Lianna Spurrier

Latest episodes:

Episode 9 - "Numismatic Bibliographies," with David Fanning

Episode 8 - "Ancient Coins and Their Books," with Shanna Schmidt

Available on most podcast apps
and at coinbooks.org



The BiblioFiles

Cole Hendrickson



My name is Cole Hendrickson and I am an avid numismatic researcher and collector. I live in Scottsdale, Arizona and am currently a student at Arizona State University where I am studying history.

Q. *What is your area of special numismatic interest?*

A. In addition to numismatic literature, my primary numismatic interests are Civil War era numismatics and tokens/medals. Civil War tokens, being the intersection of these two interests, are a particular focus of mine.

Q. *What is your favorite numismatic reference?*

A. My favorite numismatic reference is one of two books. First is the 3rd Edition of *U.S. Civil War Store Cards* by George and Melvin Fuld edited by John Ostendorf which is by far the most frequently used book in my library. The other candidate for my favorite numismatic reference would be John Adams' *United States Numismatic Literature*. I find Volume 1 of John Adams' book especially useful in my pursuit of collecting the catalogs of W. Elliot Woodward.

Q. *Are you working on any special projects right now?*

A. As I previously mentioned, I am currently working on collecting the catalogs of W. Elliot Woodward. In regards to research projects, I always have a number of articles in the works but have also been working on a number of book projects. The book project I have been focusing on recently is a book on the Civil War Store Cards of Connecticut. In addition, I have been contemplating writing a biography on Jeremiah Colburn.

Q. *If you could meet someone from numismatic history, who would it be?*

A. I would love to meet William Sumner Appleton. For some reason, I am fascinated by him and would relish the opportunity to meet him. From more recent times, I would have enjoyed meeting Steve Tanenbaum.

Q. *Is your library mainly for research or do you primarily consider your literature as a collectible itself?*

A. My library is a mixture of both. Some are used for research purposes while others are strictly collectibles.



The Lincoln Centennial Medal

(top) Obverse: Sculptor Jules Edouard Roiné's non-traditional view of Lincoln, facing left.

(bottom) Reverse: Roiné's symbolic rendition of Lincoln as liberator.

Courtesy Joel J. Orosz

ASSOCIATIONS

Autographs • Annotations • Inscriptions

The Brooks Family Copy of the Lincoln Centennial Medal and Me: Brought Together by “A Simple Twist of Fate”

By Joel J. Orosz

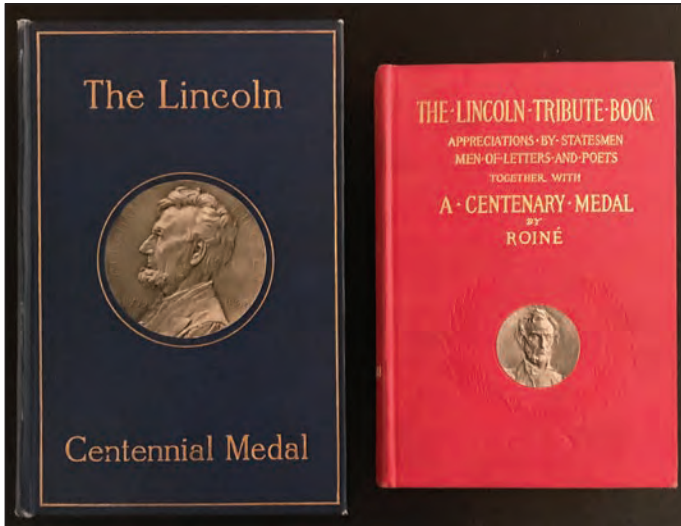
There will be no “Blood on the Tracks” in this tale, the subtitle’s allusion to a hit single from Bob Dylan’s revered 1975 album notwithstanding. There will, however, be twists of fate a-plenty, tying together such disparate *dramatis personae* as the 16th President, from Springfield, Illinois; a graduate student from Kalamazoo, Michigan; a patrician family of the Western Reserve of Connecticut; the 550-acre stage, University Circle, in Cleveland, Ohio, on which their paths crossed both figuratively and literally; and *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*, a book bearing a medal intrinsically housed in a die-cut opening masterminded by a collector of Lincolniana residing at Ardsley-on-Hudson, New York. At its core, this is a story of a book and a book collector inextricably—and in some ways inexplicably—bound together by “simple twists of fate.”



Robert Hewitt, Jr., collector of Lincolniana extraordinaire, and father of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*

Courtesy American Numismatic Society

This true tale of improbable interconnections begins with Robert Hewitt, who, like so many other numismatists, began gathering coins during the 1850s. He sold his first collection through Bangs, Merwin & Co., on March 19, 1862, but over the next 50 years, went on to build one of the greatest aggregations of Lincolniana. Hewitt was also a numismatic founder; before moving to Ardsley-on-Hudson, he resided at #32, West 21st Street in New York City, where, on January 23, 1864, he hosted the inaugural meeting of the New York Numismatic Society (The American Numismatic Society, founded by Augustus B. Sage on March 8, 1858, had been moribund since 1859). On July 31, 1866, the two societies merged under the banner of the American Numismatic and Archaeological Society. Hewitt remained active in the ANAS, but in 1909 also co-founded, with Charles Augustus de Kay, the Circle of the Friends of the Medallion. He died shortly thereafter, and his collection was largely dispersed by two Tom Elder auctions on March 21, 1914 and January 25, 1918. After these sales, Hewitt’s collection of Lincolniana was donated by his widow to the Smithsonian Institution in 1918, the numismatic portion of which, comprising 1,200 medals, today resides in the National Numismatic Collection.

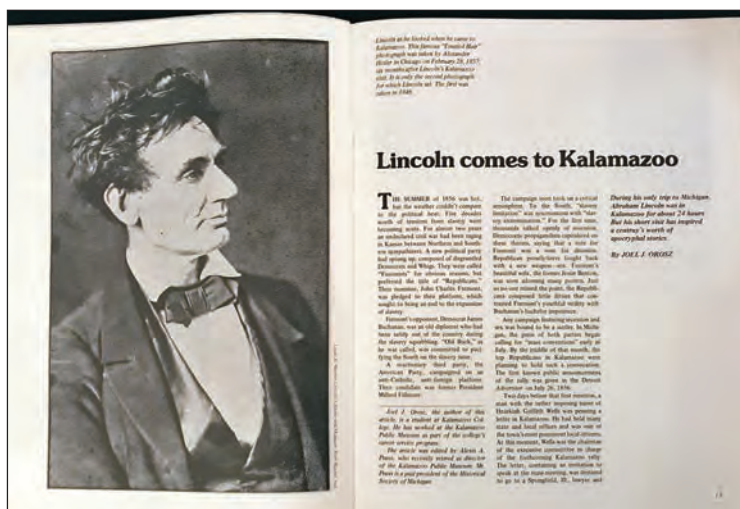


Covers of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal* and *The Lincoln Tribute Book*.
Hewitt's book / medal combinations, produced in commemoration of the
centenary of Lincoln's birth. Courtesy Joel J. Orosz

In 1908, as the centennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth drew near, Hewitt decided to add his own mite to the nation-wide commemorations then in the works. The competition would be formidable, for such tributes as a high school in East St. Louis, an entire county in Montana, and the Washington-to-Gettysburg leg of a projected 3,389-mile transcontinental highway, were all to be christened in Lincoln's name on February 12, 1909. But Hewitt devised a commemoration that would outlast them all, the Lincoln Centennial Medal, the work of the renowned French sculptor Jules Edouard Roiné, encased in a handsome book also called *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*, published by the Knickerbocker Press imprint of George Putnam's Sons.

Hewitt's aim in designing this medal/book combination was to properly honor the great Emancipator, and his aim proved true. *The Lincoln Centennial Medal* is an elegant presentation, well bound in navy cloth, lettered in gilt, with all page edges also gilt. Within a gilt circle on the cover is a mounted photograph of the medal's obverse, powerful in its simplicity: Lincoln's bust to left, with ABRAHAM to its left, and LINCOLN to its right. The 62mm medal's reverse is dominated by a luxurious wreath of palm to the left, and oak to the right—symbolic of victory and strength—with, at the top, the sun bursting through clouds to represent a new birth of freedom. Within the wreath is: EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION SIGNED JANUARY FIRST 1863, and below, Lincoln's facsimile signature incused. At the top, over the sunburst, is LIBERATOR, while at the base of the wreath, in two lines is: 1909 / CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION. A single medal was struck in gold (for Hewitt's collection), 100 in silver, and a few hundred in bronze.

The medal is mounted in a quarter-inch thick, die-cut pasteboard, which in turn is bound into the middle of seventy pages of text. Most selections reprint Lincoln's

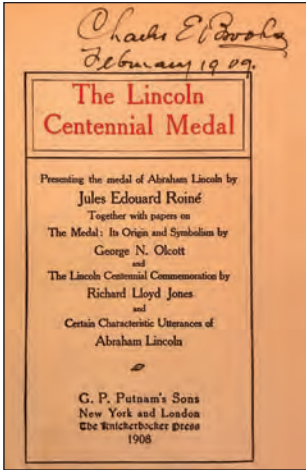


“Lincoln Comes to Kalamazoo,” from the Summer 1978 issue of *The Chronicle of the Historical Society of Michigan*. The author’s first published article, featuring the “Tousled Hair” photograph, taken six months after Lincoln spoke in Kalamazoo.

Courtesy Joel J. Orosz

“greatest hits”—the Emancipation Proclamation, the Gettysburg Address, the Second Inaugural Address—but there are also two articles of numismatic interest: “The Medal: Its Origin and Symbolism” by George N. Olcott (a professor at Columbia, and a numismatist specializing in ancient Greek and Roman coins) and “The Lincoln Centenary 1809-1909” by Richard Lloyd Jones (a journalist who led the effort to turn Lincoln’s birthplace, at Hodgenville, Kentucky, into a national shrine). Hewitt held the copyright of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*, and dedicated the book to Archer M. Huntington, the President and great benefactor of the American Numismatic Society. Released at the end of 1908, this book/medal combination quickly sold out, with the demand being so intense that cost of the book with the silver medal quickly doubled on the secondary market. Hewitt had foreseen this possibility, and had prepared a less expensive volume, *The Lincoln Tribute Book*, with a smaller medal, also designed by Roiné, that was published early in 1909, and offered as a sort of consolation prize to those who were unable to secure a copy of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*.

Both of these medallic “die-cut” books came to my attention, and eventually to my library, after a couple of articles about them appeared in *The E-Sylum* in 2005. With these purchases, I encountered an initial “simple twist of fate,” for I had, by both geography and biography, a distinctive, albeit trifling, connection to Abraham Lincoln. My hometown of Kalamazoo was the only place in Michigan that Lincoln ever visited, and that for only two days, August 27–28, 1856. But what a day August 27 was, when a village of about 5,000 people played host to a mass rally numbering twice that many from across southwestern Michigan in support of the first Republican candidate for President, John Charles Frémont. Somewhat startlingly, Lincoln was invited to speak at the Kalamazoo mass meeting by H.G. Wells. No, not *that* H.G. Wells,

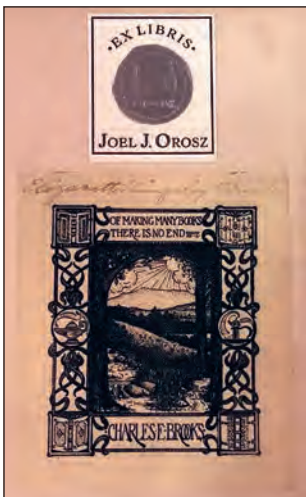


Charles E. Brooks' inked signature in The Lincoln Centennial Medal. Inscribed during the month of The Lincoln Centennial Medal's issue.

Courtesy Joel J. Orosz

but rather local Republican bigwig Hezekiah Griffith Wells. The texts of the most of the 30-odd speeches Lincoln gave in support of Frémont during the 1856 campaign are lost, but a reporter from the *Detroit Advertiser* skilled in phonography, an 1850s version of shorthand, fortuitously recorded the oration. The edition of the *Advertiser* in which "Lincoln's Kalamazoo Address Against Extending Slavery" was published was misplaced, and not rediscovered until 1930. Upon examination, the speech was found to foreshadow many of the themes Lincoln would later use in his June 16, 1858 "House Divided" speech at the Republican State Convention in Springfield, which launched his candidacy for the Senate against Stephen A. Douglas.

During my junior year at Kalamazoo College, I interned at the Kalamazoo Public Museum (now Kalamazoo Valley Museum), where then-Director Alexis A. Praus encouraged me to write a comprehensive article on Lincoln's visit to Kalamazoo. In the course of research and writing, I became a leading expert on three days of Lincoln's life: August 26–28, 1856. The research proved engrossing, even if most of it involved debunking myths. Like many another small town in 1856, Kalamazoo had two weekly newspapers, the *Democratic Gazette*, and the *Republican Telegraph*. The *Gazette's* account of the rally dismissed Lincoln's speech with a single critical sentence. The pertinent issue of the *Telegraph* had been missing for decades, causing local historians to speculate about what a bonanza of detail regarding Lincoln and other rally speakers it must have contained. One of my classmates, working on a separate research project, fortuitously located the long-missing *Telegraph* issue, and it was... a complete bust. The *Telegraph's* staff rode around on a horse-drawn float all day long, printing handbills, and therefore effectively missed the rally. In lieu of actual reporting, they filled their columns with invidious comparisons of the two candidates, such as one contrasting the youthful virility of Frémont with James Buchanan's bachelor impotence. All of this resulted in my very first publication, "Lincoln Comes to Kalamazoo", published in the Summer 1978 issue of *The Chronicle of the Historical Society of Michigan*.



Charles E. Brooks' printed bookplate in The Lincoln Centennial Medal. Signature in pencil of Charles' niece, Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks, across top of bookplate

Courtesy Joel J. Orosz

The second “simple twist of fate” arose when I began studying the provenance of my copy of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*. The first owner was definitely Charles E. Brooks, who signed the title page and wrote the date of issue—“February 1909”—beneath his signature. His bookplate, with “Charles E. Brooks” printed at the bottom, and with the Biblical observation “Of making many books there is no end” printed at the top, is affixed to the inside front board. There is also a signature, written clearly in pencil, across the top margin of the bookplate: “Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks.” Soon, the search for information on the two previous owners surnamed Brooks transported me to the southern shores of Lake Erie, more specifically to my graduate *alma mater* on the East side of Cleveland.

According to *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*, the saga of the Brooks family begins with Joshua Brooks, one of the “embattled farmers” who stood at Concord Bridge on April 19, 1775 and “fired the shot heard round the world.” His grandson, Oliver Allen Brooks, left Burlington, Vermont in 1834, traveling via the Erie Canal and lake steamer to arrive in Cleveland, a city included in the tract once known as the Western Reserve of Connecticut, but by 1834 a boom town in northeastern Ohio. Oliver opened a hardware and crockery business in 1841, in partnership with Henry Huntington, called Huntington and Brooks, which was the first firm in Cleveland to import Staffordshire pottery direct from Liverpool. In 1844, Huntington opened a branch of the firm in Cincinnati, leaving Brooks in charge of the Cleveland operation.

The firm of Huntington and Brooks evolved in both its product lines and trade styles over the next 83 years. By 1917, it was Brooks Household Arts Company, run by the youngest of Oliver Allen Brooks’ sons, Edward Howard Brooks. Ready to retire, he sold the firm to Louis Rorimer, proprietor of Rorimer Design. The combined enterprise, renamed Rorimer Brooks Studio, became the largest interior design firm west of New York City. Rorimer Brooks was acclaimed for blending historical styles into contemporary creations, especially in the realm of Art Deco. Louis’ son James J. Rorimer was one of the “Monuments Men” who traced and recovered artworks across Europe that had been looted by the Nazis (James was portrayed by Matt Damon in the movie of the same name). James later became the Director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where his greatest legacy was the creation of the Cloisters, the Met’s division dedicated to the art and architecture of medieval Europe.

The third “simple twist of fate”: James’ widow, Katherine Serrell Rorimer, was a Trustee of Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), where Florence and I both attended graduate school. Kay, as she was known, lived in a huge apartment at 1000 Park Avenue, and for many years, opened her home to scholars from CWRU who were conducting research in New York City. I stayed at the “Hotel Rorimer” three times



James and Katherine (Kay) Rorimer, ca. 1965. Connecting Rorimer and Brooks and Case Western Reserve University to the story.

Courtesy Jstor



Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks Ford. The previous owner of the author's book, and a great Cleveland philanthropist.

Photos courtesy the Abington Foundation



David K. Ford. Husband of Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks Ford, whose business interests spanned the globe, but whose life began and ended in University Circle.

while doing research for my dissertation, which was eventually published as *Curators and Culture: The Museum Movement in America, 1740-1870*. Dinner at 1000 Park was a modern-day salon, as visiting grad students and professors discussed their latest research and findings. Kay loved to challenge her guests to guess the origin and probable date of manufacture of an ornate sideboard in the dining room. My assessment was "Spanish, ca. 1700." She grinned impishly as she revealed the correct answer: "Rorimer Brooks, ca. 1925."

But back to mid-nineteenth century Cleveland, and Oliver Allen Brooks, who did Fred MacMurray one better by having "my four sons." One, Edward Howard Brooks (born 1854), we have already met. Another, William Keith Brooks (born 1848), was a young man who went East, thus contradicting Horace Greeley's advice, to become the first professor of zoology at the Johns Hopkins University. The eldest was Oliver Kingsley Brooks (born 1845), who eventually fathered two daughters, the younger of whom was our Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks (born 1896). That leaves only one other brother, Charles Ernest Brooks (born 1851), the buyer of my copy of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*. He died in 1921, and apparently, left the book to his niece, Elizabeth, who signed her name on the top of her uncle's bookplate.

To add a fourth "simple twist of fate," one of Elizabeth's fellow students in the class of 1916 at the Westover School in Middlebury, Connecticut, was fellow Clevelander Emery May Holden, better known to coin collectors as the legendary numismatist Emery May Norweb. I never met Elizabeth nor Emery personally, but I did encounter

Emery's son Henry at museum association meetings during the early 1980s, when he was a trustee of the Holden Arboretum, located in Kirtland, Ohio, about 25 miles east of downtown Cleveland.

In 1920, Elizabeth married David Knight Ford, who was born in 1894, and raised on his great-grandfather's farm, located near the intersection of Euclid Avenue and Adelbert Road on the east side of Cleveland. For a decade prior to David's arrival, tracts of the Ford farm property had been sold to provide new campuses for Western Reserve University (which had been located in Hudson, Ohio), and also the Case Institute of Applied Science (which had been in downtown Cleveland). Radiating outward from these two universities and the remainder of the Ford farmstead, other cultural institutions relocated and prospered—the Cleveland Museum of Art, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, the Western Reserve Historical Society, and the Cleveland Botanical Garden—and the institutions eventually incorporated a separate entity called "University Circle," to represent the common interests of the densest such concentration of cultural and educational institutions in the United States.

After World War One, the arrival of the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals (the latter built on the site of the Ford family homestead) made "the Circle" a medical, as well as educational, powerhouse. While the two universities were better-known for academics than athletics, they did make sports history. Case Institute's Van Horn Field hosted both the debut game coached by Knute Rockne (1918), and the first football game played by Alabama's Crimson Tide north of the Mason-Dixon Line (1920). Speaking of sports, while Western Reserve University and Case Institute of Technology federated on July 1, 1967, it took nearly five years to fully merge their respective athletic programs, making the newly-federated Case Western Reserve University the only American institution of higher education to play *itself* in intercollegiate athletic contests. As the rueful student observation went, "Well, we can't lose—but we can't win, either."

Florence and I couldn't lose when we enrolled at CWRU in 1979 for our respective graduate studies, she in law school, I in the history department. We soon learned that we were within a short drive of the inauspiciously-named, but indescribably delicious,



Slyman's Corned Beef Sandwich. A typical offering from a deli beloved by all Clevelanders, whether East Siders or West Siders.

Courtesy bestcornedbeefincleveland.com

offerings of Slyman's Ham and Eggs, a deli at East 30th and St. Clair that served arguably the best corned beef sandwich in the universe. I found part-time employment at the Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine, located, by a fifth "simple twist of fate," in the Allen Memorial Medical Library, at the corner where Adelbert Road T-bones into Euclid Avenue, smack on the site of the old Ford family farm. Severance Hall, the home of the Cleveland Orchestra, rose regally directly across Euclid, and, in the opposite direction, up Adelbert Road, stood University Hospitals. For a while, I



Allen Memorial Medical Library. Located at the intersection of Euclid and Adelbert, in the heart of University Circle, on the site of the old Ford Farm.

Courtesy Cleveland Medical Library Association.

had a side gig with the Allen Library, which served as the historical medical repository, running checked-out books and journals to University Hospitals and to the neighboring CWRU Medical School, and bringing returned books back to the Allen, all through a warren of tunnels that connected half a dozen buildings comprising the three institutions.

It was at University Hospitals, in 1993, that David K. Ford, nearly a century old, passed away literally within yards of the site of the old homestead

where he was born and raised. By then, he was a widower, for Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks Ford had died in 1990. But the Fords left behind the Abington Foundation, which continued their lifelong philanthropic activities in support of youth development, healthcare and fine arts organizations. And, in a sixth “simple twist of fate,” I later had the opportunity to support some of the same grantees as the Abington Foundation when I worked as a program director for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan from 1986 to 2001.

I don’t know how long Elizabeth Kingsley Brooks Ford owned *The Lincoln Centennial Medal* after she inherited it from her uncle Charles Edward Brooks around 1921. Perhaps it was not for long; then again, perhaps it was still in her library in the early 1980s, when we both lived in Cleveland. I am not a believer in determinism, or in the inexorable operations of preordained fate, but it almost seems as if a predestinarian tendency brought Elizabeth’s copy of *The Lincoln Centennial Medal* into my hands. I have many books in my numismatic library boasting impressive provenances, from President Zachary Taylor, to financier J. P. Morgan, to President George Washington’s nephew, Lawrence. I have several volumes once owned by people whose numismatic exploits I have attempted to “Boswellize,” like Dr. Lewis Roper, Charles Ira Bushnell, and Richard Wistar Davids. This Hewitt/Brooks book/medal tome, however, is for me, a singular sensation. Its provenance seems utterly determined to loop the loop around my personal pathways.

When the time inevitably comes to pass along this volume to its next steward, I can only hope that it goes to a Lincoln-loving numismatic bibliophile connected to Cleveland; preferably, of course, to the East Side, and better yet, to University Circle. And if he or she is a grantee of the Abington Foundation, or a proud CWRU Spartan, or has a yen for Slyman’s mile-high, melt-in-your-mouth, corned beef sandwiches, well, any of these eventualities would comprise a most desirable, albeit, not simple, *seventh* twist of fate.



John J. Ford, Jr., and a Bibliophilic Deception

By David D. Gladfelter

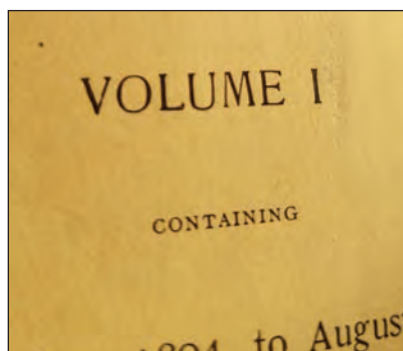
Warren Baker says that a paper on the card currency of French Canada, written by James Stevenson in 1875, can be found in the March, 1894, issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Bankers Association*.¹ “Great,” I thought. Volume I of that journal (1894–1895) just happens to be right here, straight from the library of John J. Ford, Jr., with his diminutive square JF monogram sticker on the inside cover. So let’s look up this interesting topic and learn something new.

Not so easy. The earliest “number” in this particular volume is dated September 1894. The annual index contains the obituary of James Stevenson, but no article by him. I went to the website of the Canadian Bankers Association² hoping to track down the March 1894 issue of its journal. I learned that the journal was established as a quarterly in 1893 and that its first issue was in September of that year. So, if the 1894–1895 volume of the JCBA was volume I, what was the 1893–1894 volume called? Volume 0? What gives?

Sure enough, the index in Ford’s bound volume says “Volume I ... September 1894, to August 1895.” But wait a minute—there’s a faint rub on the volume number. I got out the loupe for a closer look. Aha! The rub is right where the second digit of the Roman numeral II should have been. There is a similar rub on the first page of the September, 1894 number. But the first pages of the December 1894, March 1895, and June 1895 numbers all show volume II. Most peculiar!

On the spine of the bound volume, in the fourth compartment between the third and fourth raised bands, is a scratched-out area. On bound periodicals, such a space is frequently used to display the periodical’s volume number(s), date(s), or both. If such information were once present on this volume, it can no longer be deciphered.

On a blank page inside the freely appears the signature of one J. H. Abbott. Abbott’s name appears at the front of a long “list of associates” at the back of the volume. It gives as his business connection, the Merchants Bank of Halifax. The January 1888 edition of the *Homans Banker’s Almanac*³ states that Abbott was at that time an agent for the sprawling MBH in Kingston, Kent County, New Brunswick. Did Abbott make the deletions to his copy of JCBA volume 2?



1 *The First Twelve Years: Canadian Numismatic Publishing, 1863-1875* (Montreal: 1989), item 29.
2 cba.ca/cba-history Accessed July 30, 2021.

3 *The Banker’s Almanac and Register and Legal Directory for January 1888 Edition* (New York: Homans Publishing Co., 1888), p. 371.

Unlikely, right?

Was Ford the deceiver or was he deceived? We will never know. All we do know is that the book came from his library. And the deception fooled George Kolbe, arguably the GOAT⁴ of numismatic literature dealers.⁵ And it fooled me—for a time. But not enough to make me want to part with this interesting volume, which contains plenty of other good information including details of the life of James Stevenson and his photograph.

The deception has now been corrected in pencil. Normally I don't write in numismatic books, but the next owner of this volume deserves to know the truth.

Fortunately, Stevenson's card currency article can be found on the CBA web site (see fn. 2). I recommend it.



⁴ Current sports jargon for "greatest of all time".

⁵ George Frederick Kolbe, *The John J. Ford, jr., Reference Library, Part Two* (New York: Stack's and George Fred-erick Kolbe, June 4 and 6, 2005), lot 1440: "Canadian Bankers' Association, JOURNAL OF THE CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION, VOLUME I: CONTAINING SEPTEMBER, 1894, TO AUGUST, 1895. Toronto, Monetary Times Printing Co., Limited, 1895. ... Acquired 12/29/71 @ 50. Well-indexed, including much valuable numismatic information and data, particularly on Canadian banks and bank notes. An article by J. W. H. Rowley, on *Old Currencies of Nova Scotia*, features illustrations of 1820 and 1821 scrip issues. Another article by Rowley, with an illustration, is entitled *Bits and their origin*."

<p>STEPHEN ALBUM RARE COINS</p>  <p>stevealbum.com</p>	<p><i>Connect with your fellow bibliomaniacs!</i></p>  <p>INSTAGRAM numismaticbibliomania</p>  <p>FACEBOOK Numismatic-Bibliomania-Society</p>
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Catalogue Printing Plate Mystery

By Dr. Larry Meiteles

I attended the most recent ANA World's Fair of Money in Chicago, Illinois. It was the first time I traveled by airplane in approximately two years. The entire trip was surreal and felt a bit strange. It was nice to see old friends who I have missed during the pandemic. Masks were voluntary at the convention and on the bourse floor. I, personally, wore my mask at all times.

I had one very exciting purchase which I wanted to share with the membership. While walking through the bourse floor I noticed three printing plates in a dealer's case. Initially I was searching for coins and did not closely examine this particular item. After quenching my thirst for coins, I returned to the dealer's table. The printing plates were mounted on wood and depicted different coins and medals.

One plate depicted ancient coins. One plate had British coins and the third plate depicted medals. The dealer could not tell me where the plates had come from or how old they were. I was intrigued by the plate of ancient coins because this is my area of collecting. I purchased the plate and immediately took it to the Kolbe and Fanning table. I showed the plate to Maria Fanning and asked her if she had any idea where they originated. She confirmed that it was most likely a printing plate from a catalog or book. I then took the printing plate to Charles Davis and asked his opinion. He immediately recognized the printing plate and remarked that he had sold the plates to the dealer approximately twenty years ago. He said they were the printing plates from an old Schulman catalog originating in the 1950s or 1960s.

I was very excited about the purchase. I was more excited about the purchase of the printing plate for \$35 than the ancient Bar Kokhba Sela which I purchased for a high four-figure price. I plan on trying to match the plate to the catalog for which it was created.



The BiblioFiles

David Pickup



My name is David and I live in England. Not everyone in England lives in palace. I am usually found in my office.

Q: On what articles are you currently working?

A: Accidents caused to mint workers when making coins. This is hopefully more interesting than it sounds. Coins are small pieces of hot, toxic metal hit by a very heavy object against another heavy thing. What could go wrong?

Slugs. This mean low denomination, often foreign, coins which are the same size and weight as other coins and can be used in slot machines. This is for interest only. I do not want to encourage fraud! I do find counterfeits interesting. I wonder why they bothered sometimes. The profit must have been tiny.

Christmas coins. Every December I promise myself I will write a book about coins that have some connection with the holiday but never do. By January 1st I forget it.

Q: What is your special numismatic area of interest?

A: My area of special numismatic interest is anything I find interesting. I collect pretty much any type of coin, medallion or token depending on my interest at the time. I have collected coins from Roman Britain, seventeenth century tokens, Africa, Spain and India. Most magpies think I do not discriminate enough. I like rumours and stories about coins. I have come across lots of myths about coins being very rare or even that some had gold added by mistake.

Q: If you could meet anyone from history, who would it be?

A: John Yonge Akerman, who helped start pretty much everything numismatic and new, including a railway in London, a numismatic society journal and wrote lots of books on coins.

Q: If you could ask numismatists to do one thing, what would it be?

A: One thing I would like other numismatic bibliomaniacs to do is write in books their name, the date when they bought the book and comments on the book.

The Story of Alexander P. Wylie

By William A. Burd

Over 4,800 auction catalogs dating from the 1850s to the early 1900s surfaced in 1976 in Wheaton, Illinois. Much has been written about this hoard. Literature dealer Frank Katen gave a talk at the August 1989 ANA Convention in Pittsburgh regarding his involvement, and later published his presentation in the winter 1989 issue of *The Asylum*. His focus was on the catalogs, the 80 dealers represented, and the six sales he held in 1977 and 1978.

In the 1993 winter issue of *The Asylum*, John W. Adams wrote of his involvement with Richard Piper, the owner of the catalogs in 1976. He paints a colorful picture of Piper and then discusses his trip to Piper's home and his all-night itemization of the hoard. He explains his offer to Piper and the disappointment in being turned down. He concludes with his satisfaction in obtaining the items he wanted through Katen's auctions.

Joel J. Orosz, in the *The Asylum* fall 1994 issue, writes about William Elliot Woodward and his obsession with early auction catalogs. Orosz concludes with an assumption that Woodward's accumulation passed to Wylie upon his death. In the summer 1999 issue Orosz gives us some background on Alexander P. Wylie and then presents a detailed breakdown on two of Alexander Wylie's price lists. He effectively confirms that Wylie was a literature dealer as well as a coin/currency dealer.

These gentlemen focused mainly on the catalogs, and rightfully so, but what about Mr. Wylie. What was his story?

In 1976 I was living in a suburb of Chicago about 30 miles from Wheaton. By 1979 I was dealing in coins for a living full-time, and by the early 1990s I was collecting numismatic literature as a hobby. As I read these articles in *The Asylum* I started to research the Wylie family. It begins in Ayrshire, Scotland where the Wylie Clan farmed for hundreds of years, where the land and the farming skills were passed down from one generation to the next. In 1852 Alexander Wylie's grandfather, also named Alexander Wylie, died. He left behind his wife, Jean Allison aged 58, and seven sons who shortly after his death moved to America. They settled in La Salle County, Illinois and began farming. Jean died in Illinois on March 25, 1873. Jean's oldest son Alexander, born in March of 1822, married Susanna Parker on April 7, 1859. They gave birth to Alexander Parker Wylie (the subject of our story) on January 23, 1861 at their farm near Prairie Center, La Salle County, Illinois. He grew up on the farm attending nearby schools. He eventually went to East Paw Paw Classical Seminary in East Paw Paw, Illinois where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. After his graduation he attended a business college in Chicago after which he worked in Chicago for two years. He then returned to Prairie Center and taught several terms of school in the vicinity.

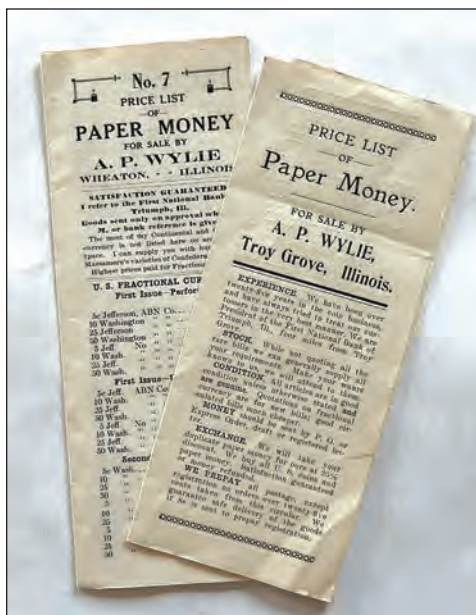
On October 18, 1897 at the age of 36, Wylie married Lilla Belle Carr, age 28, of Triumph, Illinois. They commenced farming next to his parents' farm and had two children, a son, Alexander Evan, born in 1900 and a daughter Myra Belle, born in 1903.



Wylie family home in Wheaton where catalogs resided for over 50 years

In 1908 they moved to Troy Grove, a small town approximately five miles northwest of Prairie Center. Shortly after, Wylie became President of the First National Bank of Triumph. Triumph was originally established as Lafayette in 1834, later changed to Hardscrabble, and in the early 1880s changed to Triumph. The bank was established in 1905. In the 1910 Illinois Bank Directory A.P. Wylie is listed as president, W.H. Dunlap as vice president and M.F. Worsley as cashier. Capital is listed as \$25,000 and deposits at \$200,000. Wylie resigned from the presidency in 1917 but remained involved with the bank was listed as assistant cashier in 1920. The family remained tied to the bank and as late as 1970. Wylie's son Alexander E. and his son-in-law Ansel Ward were directors. Wylie's granddaughter's husband, Peter Van Dyke, was a director and owned 10% of the stock when the bank was sold to First Union Bank Corporation in 1987.

The family moved from Troy Grove to Wheaton in 1913, purchasing a house (built in 1887) at 616 North Main. Wylie and his wife remained in the house until their deaths in 1931 and 1949 respectively. This is where the catalogs were stored. Wylie was under a doctor's care beginning in May of 1931. On June 17th he was admitted to Copley Hospital in Aurora, Illinois and was operated on the next day. He remained in the hospital until his death on June 29th at the age of 71. He executed a will on the day he entered the hospital leaving everything to his wife. She was named executrix and their son Alexander E. acted as her lawyer. The probate papers show Wylie as owning no real estate and his personal property to be worth about six thousand dollars. The home he lived in was in joint tenancy with his wife, therefore upon his death it became her property. His coin collection was listed as a mere \$300 and personal belongings an additional \$200. Interestingly, he had 2000 bushels of grain in storage valued at \$1,000. Four years after his death, Mrs. Wylie consigned her husband's collec-



Two of Wylie's price lists (See Orosz's 1999 article for a detailed breakdown)

tion to Mr. Bolender of Orangeville, Illinois. Part one was placed in his Auction #100 held on November 30, 1935. Additional items were sold in 1936 and 1937. Needless to say, they brought well over \$300.

Wylie became a coin collector at age 15 and a dealer nine years later in 1885. The first recorded indication of his involvement in the hobby is in Dr. George Heath's publication *The Numismatist*. Heath began listing coin collectors starting with Volume 3, No. 1 dated January 1, 1891. Ten to thirty names were listed in each issue. Number 171 in the August 1891 issue is "Wylie, A.P., Prairie Centre Ill." Four years later in 1895 Wylie joined the ANA and was assigned membership #278 later changed to #89.

In October 1908 Chas. Steigerwalt, Lancaster Pa., issued a fixed price list titled "\$25,000 Collection." On Steigerwalt's office copy in red ink on the front cover is handwritten "Check List-Wylie Collateral." Of the coins in the price list, 207 pieces are marked with the same red ink. If this is literally collateral or if it is a consignment I do not know. It does however indicate Wylie's substantial involvement in the coin business by 1908.

Wylie was very active in purchasing coins from many different auction companies as indicated by auction house invoices in my possession. They include B. Max Mehl Sale 28 in March 1914, sale 51 in December 1918 and Sale 55 in November 1919. He also purchased from Thomas Elder in March 1915, Edward Michael's 21st sale in March 1916 and Lyman Low in September 1920. He also attended Ben Green auctions held in Chicago. Surely these few invoices I possess represent a small percentage of his purchases and is another indication of his involvement in the coin business.

Lilla Belle Wylie died on December 14, 1949. She completed her last will in April of 1949 and named her son as executor. She left everything to her two children. She owned two homes, the one she lived in and an adjacent home she rented out. She also owned a considerable amount of farmland in La Salle County and 52 shares of The First National Bank of Triumph.

The son, Alexander E. Wylie, entered Knox College in 1917 and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in June 1921. He attended the University of Michigan Law School and received his LLB in October 1925. In 1926 he married Adelaide W. Lyons and they settled in Clare, Michigan where in 1932 he ran as the Republican candidate for Judge of Probate for Clare County. In 1966 he published a book titled "Veteran and Affiliated Organizations Arising from the Civil War." He died in 1970. He lived in

Mendota, Illinois at the time.

The daughter, Myra Belle, married Ansel M. Ward. They had one daughter, Marlene, who married Peter Van Dyke. They lived in Aurora in the 1970s. After Ansel's death in 1976, Myra Belle moved to Aurora to be near her daughter. She died in 1995 at the age of 92. Marlene and Peter moved to Florida the same year.

Myra Belle and Ansel lived a block from Wylie's Wheaton home at the time of Lilla Bella's death in 1949. Myra inherited the house which she kept until 1974 when she sold it to Greg Johnson. According to Johnson it was a boarding house for many years. Johnson knew members of the family and told me several stories that they told him. The family had a garage sale just prior to his purchase of the home and it included many personal family items such as family photo albums. He managed to purchase the family bible and showed it to me when I visited him in 1998. He also showed me an old wooden table with Wylie's initials carved into the top along with his son's. As I admired a vintage secretarial desk, he explained that in the 1930s Mrs. Wylie hid gold coins in the inner drawers in fear the government would confiscate them.

I had a phone conversation with Richard T. Piper around 1996. He had moved from Wheaton and was then residing in Scales Mound, Illinois. During our conversation he jumped from one subject to another without settling down to a productive discussion regarding the hoard. I could barely ask my questions, few of which he took the time to answer. He did reveal he owned the hoard for over a year and bought it at a garage sale. He was offered the entire group of catalogs for \$200 with the condition he take them all, many which he had to retrieve from the basement. It took two trips to get everything to his house.

Piper's numismatic pursuits seemed to evolve only around this time period. He joined the ANA in November 1975 as life member #1738. He was involved with the publicity for the New York ANA Convention in 1976. Earlier in 1976 he published his book titled *The Elusive 1836 Reeded Half Dollar*. Edward Rochette wrote the forward and Piper in his introduction thanks Dr. John E. Wilkison of Springfield, Tennessee for use of his extensive library, and Q. David Bowers and Art Kagin for their contributions. Piper states he spent years researching for the book which would suggest he used Dr. Wilkison's library prior to seeing the Wylie hoard. This would further suggest he was aware of the value of the catalogs when he saw them at the garage sale. And in the words of Joel Orosz, he was for a very short time "the keeper of the flame."

